



News Release

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HSSA Selects ISM for \$675,000 Biosciences Infrastructure Grant

SPOKANE, Wash. – The Health Sciences & Services Authority (HSSA) of Spokane County recently selected the Institute for Systems Medicine (ISM) to receive its first-ever grant for \$675,000 over two years, subject to successful contract negotiations between the two organizations. The ISM grant, the first since HSSA's authorization, was announced by the HSSA Board of Directors in a Request for Proposals (RFP) issued June 15th with a stated goal to increase local infrastructure capacity for bioscience research.

Applicants for HSSA 2009 funding to increase bioscience infrastructure capacity were invited from Spokane County public and nonprofit organizations, singly or in collaboration with other public and nonprofit organizations or with for-profit companies. The Board engaged in a thorough review process of the ISM proposal before it was accepted unanimously at its September meeting.

"We are very pleased to announce that the Institute for Systems Medicine is our first recipient of HSSA's first-ever grant," said Nancy L. Isserlis, Board Chair. "We believe that the ISM's proposal to create a tissue bank and a clinical data repository available to all researchers in the County clearly meets the goal of the HSSA grant and will help promote economic development through the growth of infrastructure capacity that supports bioscience research."

"Obviously, we want to thank the HSSA Board for recognizing the merit of our proposal," said Anthony Bonanzino, PhD, ISM Chief Executive Officer. "This award enhances ISM's ability to move forward its primary goal to provide an integrated and common infrastructure that will bring researchers and clinicians together to develop new solutions to health care issues and improve Spokane's economy."

The ISM proposal envisions two repositories, the Spokane Human Tissue Repository (SHTR) and the Spokane Clinical Data Repository (SCDR), both of which will be integrated and used

collaboratively by public and private researchers in the Spokane region. The development of these resources will improve competitiveness that will attract bioentrepreneurs, grow academic and corporate biomedical research, and advance local evidence-based health care, Bonanzino says.

In addition to the infrastructure capacity-related grant, a second HSSA call for proposals to increase access to health services for under-served people in Spokane County was issued July 15th. Three proposals have been received and are under review by the HSSA, which expects to make its decisions on this grant competition in early October, according to Isserlis.

The Health Sciences & Services Authority (HSSA) of Spokane County, a Washington State grantmaking authority, was established by the Washington legislature to promote bioscience-based economic development and to advance new therapies and procedures to combat disease and promote public health. The HSSA invests funds to create and support a nationally competitive health care cluster in Spokane County catalyzing connections between higher education and health care that lead to high wage jobs, long-term sustainability, and economic diversification. HSSA will fund the very best projects through a competitive, well-monitored and accountable process.

HSSA Board members are Nancy L. Isserlis, Attorney, Winston & Cashatt and Interim Board Chair; Dr. Patricia Butterfield, Dean of the WSU School of Nursing; Dr. Jeff Collins, Chief Medical Officer, Providence Sacred Heart and Holy Family; Dr. Earl “Marty” Martin, Dean of Gonzaga University’s School of Law; Alethea McCann, Owner, Spherion Staffing and Recruiting, Mari Thomas, medical researcher and wife of Fairchild Air Force Base Commander Bob Thomas; Wendy K. Schneider, Director of Development, Buffalo Bill Historical Center, and Roger Woodworth, Vice President, Avista Utilities.

More information about the HSSA and its 2009 Grant Competitions may be found at www.hssaspokane.org or by calling (509) 358-2113.

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